



## NEWS RELEASE

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**TO:** Hope Star Journal  
The Republic  
QMIx News  
White River Broadcasting

**FROM:** Columbus Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)  
City of Columbus-Bartholomew County Planning Department

**DATE:** July 22, 2016

**RE:** Long-Range Transportation Plan Public Open House

The Columbus Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) will host two open houses to collect additional public input for the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update. Both events will cover the same topics. The first open house is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 in the Lower Level Meeting Room at Columbus Municipal Airport, 4770 Ray Boll Boulevard.

The second open house will be on Tuesday, August 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Cal Brand Meeting Hall at Columbus City Hall, 123 Washington Street. The Airport and City Hall meeting rooms are both accessible. Users of all modes of transportation, including motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, bus riders, and freight movers, are encouraged to attend and share their ideas.

CAMPO held an earlier open house for the LRTP on June 14 of this year. At that event, participants saw a presentation which included proposed goals and objectives for the plan. Exhibits related to possible transportation policies and projects were also available for review and comment. Input received included suggestions on road improvements, roundabout and road diet policies, sidewalk and People Trail connections, and new bus routes.

For the July 27 open house, consultants for the plan will give a presentation at the beginning of the event. Attendees will then have the opportunity to view the modeling results of several transportation and land use scenarios. The consultants and Planning Department staff will be available to explain the scenarios and answer any questions.

The August 2 open house will feature displays of the transportation scenarios, and Planning Department staff will be available for individual discussions, but there will be no large group presentation. For both open houses, people are welcome to come and go as needed, as there will be an opportunity to speak with planners and give input for the duration of the events.

As part of an exercise to show preferences for possible transportation improvements, attendees at each open house will be asked to prioritize four scenarios: "East-West Road Connections," "Non-Motorized (Bicycle & Pedestrian) Transportation Improvements," "Bus Service Enhancements," and "Road Diets & Roundabouts."

Participants will also be able to fill out comment cards with transportation concerns or suggestions for projects. As work on the plan progresses, specific projects will be identified and prioritized for funding. These could include road improvements, railroad grade separations, new east-west connections, roundabouts, road diets, sidewalk improvements, and additional bus routes.

CAMPO's role in the community is to receive federal transportation funds and to disperse those funds to eligible Columbus and Bartholomew County projects. The LRTP is a key tool in prioritizing possible projects. Past CAMPO-funded projects have included improvements for Indiana Avenue and Carr Hill Road, the transformation of 4<sup>th</sup> Street into a flexible street for downtown events, sections of the People Trail, and the ColumBUS Transit Mill Race Station.

CAMPO, which is part of the City of Columbus-Bartholomew County Planning Department, conducts transportation planning for an area that includes Columbus and parts of unincorporated Bartholomew County. CAMPO was established in 2004, and the first LRTP was adopted the following year. Federal regulations call for the plan to be updated at least every five years to reflect changes in policy and transportation needs. The last update was in 2011.

Please contact Laura Thayer at 376-2550 with any questions about the open houses or the transportation planning process. If you are unable to attend either of the open houses, you may submit comments to [lthayer@columbus.in.gov](mailto:lthayer@columbus.in.gov).